



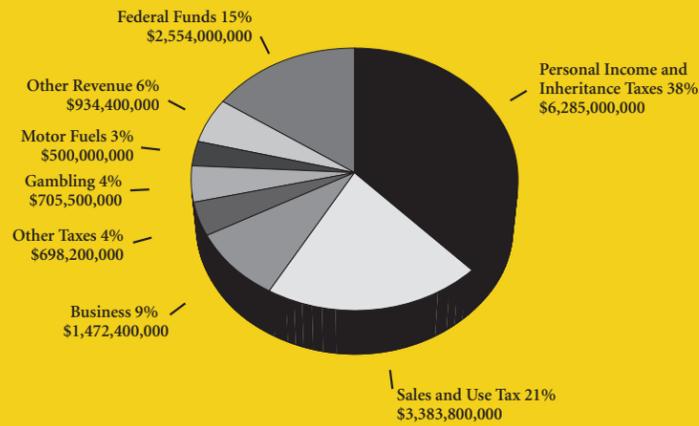
State Representative John J. Ryan

I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending. I hope you find it informative in this regard.

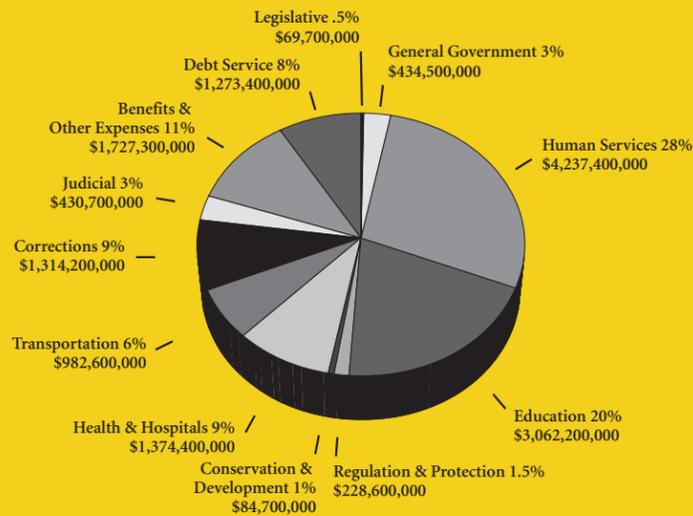
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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State Representative
JOHN J. RYAN
Proudly Serving the 141st District
Darien ★ Rowayton



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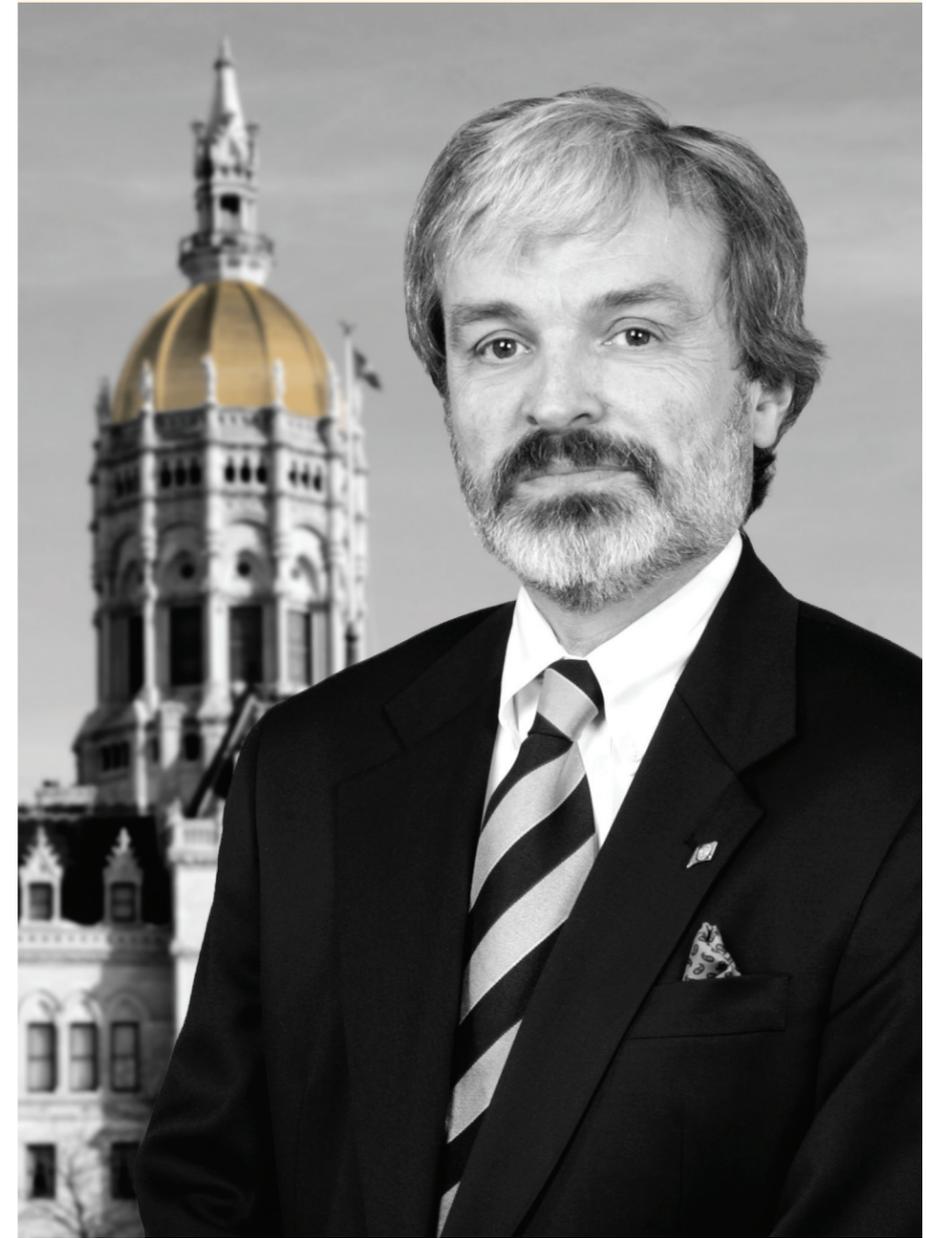
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative

JOHN J. RYAN

Proudly Serving the 141st District

Darien ★ Rowayton



Rep. Ryan meets with Governor M. Jodi Rell and Rep. T.R. Rowe, of Trumbull, prior to a 2006 Session Day at the Capitol

MAJOR TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE

Package Includes Funding For Metro North Upgrades

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded include \$45 million for capital improvements to branch rail lines and \$60 million for new parking and rail stations on the New Haven Line. It will also evaluate and plan completion of a link between the port of New Haven and commuter rails and develop a second rail passenger station between New Haven and Milford.

Lower Fairfield County continues to struggle with transportation issues and this package marks a major step forward. It is also important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prohibiting Underage Drinking On Private Property

Public Act 06-112 is designed to address a loophole in state law that has allowed underage drinking on private property. Under current law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places is a fine of \$200 to \$500. The new law now makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places and makes a first offense an infraction. Subsequent offenses are subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

Safe Rides

Public Act 06-130, which I cosponsored, allows teen volunteers to drive for the Safe Rides program once again. This program offers safe transportation home with no questions asked for teens who need a ride home when they otherwise should not get behind the wheel. Darien has had a tremendously successful Safe Rides program for years that has been staffed with very responsible teens. I am pleased that we were able to make this change and allow teens to return to volunteering for the Safe Rides program, which provides a critical service to young people in need.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142 will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.

Living Wills

Senate Bill 317 updates state law regarding the use of living wills. The legislation addresses issues that allow for more effective utilization of living wills, including authorizing a person's chosen health care representative to make health care decisions if they are incapable of personally expressing those wishes.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these companies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration.

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits as apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.



Rep. Ryan confers with Jeff Marvin, his legislative intern during the 2006 Session, regarding proposed legislation.

CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WORK 132 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY THEIR TAXES



“Lowering your tax burden is a top priority of mine.”

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

I did not vote in favor of the 2006-2007 state budget. While the budget package includes several good points, such as repealing the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and raising the maximum property tax credit on the state income from \$350 to \$500, it fails to eliminate or even reduce the estate tax. It also provides almost no increase in the State's Education Cost Sharing formula (ECS) for Darien.

On a positive note, the Town of Darien will receive \$1,680,637 in municipal aid funds in Fiscal Year '06, an increase of \$280,862. The City of Norwalk will receive \$14,143,558 in municipal aid funds in FY 06, an increase of \$547,643. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$287,928.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS!

As I was very unhappy about the Legislature's failure to eliminate, or even reduce the estate tax, I am also particularly displeased that despite much public outcry and media attention, nothing was done regarding: eliminating the car tax, limiting eminent domain powers or reducing electricity and gasoline costs.

I will note the House Republican Caucus introduced a number of amendments to address several of these issues, all of which were defeated in party line or nearly party line votes. Likewise, amendments that would have provided more significant and immediate tax breaks than those enacted were defeated in nearly party line votes.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Protection Against Identity Theft

Public Act 06-60 outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

Prohibiting "Phishing"

Public Act 06-50 outlaws prohibit email "phishing," which is typically a scam that uses email "spam" or pop-up messages to deceive people into disclosing their credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords, or other sensitive information.